

CHINESE LOVERS OF RACING

Betting is Open and Unrestricted and Done on the Pari-Mutuel System.

"The Chinese are great lovers of horse racing, and in Manchuria are bred some of the fleetest ponies in the world," said Mr. H. R. Wiley of San Francisco, who spent years in the Orient.

"Twice a year there are grand racing meets in Shanghai and the elite of these game little steeds from the north come down to compete for supremacy of the track. The handicapping is based on height; a pony of 12 hands is given a less weight to carry than one that is taller. Enormous crowds go out to see them run and the Europeans are just as eager patrons of the sport as the Celestials.

"Betting is open and unrestricted and is done something after the fashion of the pari-mutuel system. The climax of the meeting is when the grand prize of several thousand taels is awarded. In this contest no horse is eligible unless he has previously won a race. All the racing is on the turf, there being no made tracks as in this country, and the course is perfectly straight."

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL LIFE

Women Highly Domesticated and Enjoy Dancing, Tennis, Croquet, Golf and Cycling.

The South African woman is generally very highly domesticated; she is not only capable of managing her native servants very cleverly, but she is able to cook well, make jam and pickles, look after poultry, attend to the garden and make her own dresses and those of her children.

The social life in all South African towns is a strong feature, dancing is a favorite amusement and holiday picnics on river banks are general. Women play tennis, croquet and golf and do a good deal of cycling. Life in South Africa ranges from old-established culture and luxury, with every surrounding convenience and taste, to the loneliness of the veldt farm, and to this life and her husband's interests the English-born girl soon adapts herself if she is at all adaptable. She can be healthy, happy and free and usually fairly prosperous, with more money to spend than she would have in a similar position at home.—Empire Magazine.

Noadays a financial genius is a woman who succeeds in marrying a man who can make money as fast as she can spend it.

Use for Street Rubbish.

City authorities of Amsterdam are now considering the conversion of the street rubbish as a mass into combustible briquets for heating boilers.

New Arizona Industry.

Residents of Arizona have discovered that cactus needles or thorns are admirable for use as graphophone reproducing points, and a big export trade is anticipated.

ONE REAL HERO WAS MODEST

Ram Lal Bouri Saved the Lives of Two Children on East Indian Railway.

Last January a porter on the East Indian railway was presented the King Edward medal for heroism, as a reward for saving the lives of two children. The viceroy of India fastened the medal on his breast in the presence of a large company of Europeans and Indians, among whom were the chief officials of the railway. A year ago Ram Lal Bouri, the porter, was on the first of a number of coal cars that were being shunted to a side line leading to a colliery, and as they passed around a curve Ram Lal saw three little children playing on the track. He leaped off the car, seized two little ones and bundled them off the track; and he had the third child in his grasp when the car came upon him, throwing him down and killing the child. When Ram Lal was called to appear before the viceroy he went in fear and trembling, not having taken any food that day and expecting to be severely punished for not having saved the third child's life. He did not seem to realize that he had done well in doing all that it was possible to do. The cheers which greeted him and the praise given to his brave act were never bestowed upon a more modest hero.—Century Path Magazine.

Yesterday's Game.

Hopkinsville 5, Paducah 2.
Batters, Johnson and Huhn,
Welch and Taylor.

Natural Inference.

A New York newspaper chronicles the arrival in that city of an American boy who speaks no English. It is inferred that the little chap converses habitually in the baseball dialect.

LETTER FROM SIAM.

Chieng Mai, Laos, Feb. 22, 1911.

To one who has always been accustomed to the blessings of civilization, it is hard to imagine a place where railroads are not fashionable, and where one orders food and clothing from home once a year, and has to wait a year for them to arrive. We can't order a barrel of flour over the telephone here. We are ordering our supplies now, and do not expect to get them until December.

Last week a very interesting ceremony took place just back of our house, at the home of a native prince. It was a dance and feast, in honor of the spirits of their departed ancestors. I went over and got some pictures, and hope they will be good. A booth was erected in the paved court, and under this the musicians were seated. The "band" had seven pieces—a drum, two horns, a set of metal pieces or a semi-circle frame, and struck with hammers, a pair of cymbals, and two sets of bamboo sticks, that were hit together, for a rhythmical effect. At the back of

the booth, on a high shelf, were meat, rice and flowers, to feed the spirits. In front of that was a long piece of white cloth suspended from the ceiling. As each dancer came out she went to this cloth and swung around on it until she must have been quite dizzy or stupid, and after that, the dancer is not supposed to know anything that is going on. This stupor is also brought on by means of liquor, though I did not see any drinking while I was there.

After swinging around on this cloth for some time, the women come out and begin to dance. Over a bamboo pole were hung about forty scarfs or veils of different colors, and as the dance proceeded, the dancers, who to begin with, had on nothing but a skirt would select scarfs, and wind them about their heads, bodies and their necks. "Salome," in Laos, starts in scanty attire (though not reckoned immodest here), and puts on her seven veils, as the dance proceeds. To see a dancer step into a skirt, as a man does his trousers, is not the Occidental idea of grace, but it appeals to the Oriental mind. And after the women are rigged up in the variegated scarfs, with flowers over their ears, and between their fingers, they make quite a pretty sight.

One strange thing about the dance out here, is that most of it is done with the hands. The only thing they do with their feet is a sort of high-stepping, keeping time with the music. But they perform very graceful curves with their arms, and even with their fingers. They are taught suppleness of the fingers and arms from childhood, and their "dancing" is mainly a series of aesthetic poses, and, as I saw it, much more modest than our American dances.

This feast is said to have cost the prince about one hundred dollars. Neglect of the spirits of one's ancestors is thought to make them hostile and these rites are performed to propitiate them. As far as I can gather, ancestor-worship was originally a part of the Laos religion and I suspect that they have borrowed this in part from our Chinese neighbors, though I am not sure.

I was invited up to Harris' last Sunday evening to supper, and had a most delightful time. He knows my old music teacher, Miss Finley, and saw her when he was in America. He went to school at Princeton, with Mr. Barr, who married Lizzie Wood, so we had some things in common, and he and Mrs. H. are both very delightful people, anyhow.

Day before yesterday afternoon, I had quite a nice wheel-ride up the river, several miles. As I passed by a little garden on the bank, I saw some lovely daisies, much like our common field daisy, except that the petals shaded from a deep yellow, to a cream at the end. I had not seen anything like them out here, so when I came back, I asked for one, and the man gave me a great handful. I asked the name of it, and to my surprise, he called it a vegetable.

instead of a flower. I asked if they ate them, and he replied that they ate the leaves but not the flower. As I rode along with them in my hand I met a couple of women, with some children, and they exclaimed on the beauty of them, so I stopped and gave each a small bunch. I stopped and had several chats with the people, as they fished on the banks, or worked in the garden, and they seemed pleased to talk with me, and one woman asked me to return the next day and visit her. Our Christians are always very cordial, but I

had not expected such cordiality from non-Christians.

Last evening Mr. Harris gave a very interesting talk and stereopticon views of Palestine. While he was at home last year, he was given a trip to Europe, by a rich cousin, who wanted a companion, and the Holy Land was one of the countries they visited.

Mrs. MacGilvary brought me such an exquisite bunch of Marechal Neil roses yesterday. Some of them were as large as coffee cups. She has such a handsome "La Mar-

que" (I don't know how to spell it) rose, and frequently comes over early in the morning, with a big bunch for me. She has given me a bush of my own, now, though, and I hope it will be blooming in another year.

I must stop now, and get to work, Miss Buck and I are going to entertain the girls on Saturday afternoon. We are thinking of having supper out on the lawn, and making popcorn balls and jumbles, as extras.
LUCY STARLING.



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